

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2253

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3.)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER MASS KU

SUBJ: ECON/ MIL OFFICER FOR KUWAIT

SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF IMMINENT MILITARY PROGRAM WITH KUWAIT EMBASSY
REQUESTS ASSIGNMENT SOONEST OF ADDITIONAL FSO AS ECON/ MIL OFFICER.
END SUMMARY

1. ASSUMING THAT A LARGE MILITARY PROGRAM WILL BEGIN SOON AT
EMBASSY KUWAIT, AS NOW SEEMS LIKELY, WE WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL
FSO TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAY- TO- DAY DEVELOPMENTS. SUGGEST
FSO-5 OR HIGHLY QUALIFIED FSO-6 BE ASSIGNED AS ECON/ MIL OFFICER
SOONEST.

2. OFFICER WOULD HAVE THREE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS: A) TO SERVE
AS POINT OF CONTACT IN EMBASSY FOR US BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED
IN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM; B) TO BE PRIMARY WORKING LEVEL
EMBASSY LIAISON WITH US MILITARY IN KUWAIT; C) TO PROVIDE GENERAL
MONITORING OF US MILITARY PROGRAMS HERE.

3. BELIEVE OFFICER SHOULD BE PLACED WITHIN ECONOMIC SECTION UNDER
GENERAL SUPERVISION OF CHIEF OF SECTION. AS PRACTICAL MATTER,
EMBASSY ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PERFORMING
FUNCTIONS NOTED PRECEDING PARAGRAPH EVER SINCE ORIGINAL DOD
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SURVEY VISITED KUWAITHIN EARLY 1972. BOTH JOHNSON AND BOGOSIAN HAPPENED TO HAVE PREVIOUS DOD OR POLITICAL/ MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TOGETHER THEY DEVELOPED CONTACTS AMONG US DEFENSE SUPPLIERS AND KUWAIT MILITARY. NET RESULT IS THAT CONTACTS AND EXPERIENCE WITHIN EMBASSY ARE FOUND IN ECONOMIC SECTION. IN ADDITION, INTEREST OF US COMPANIES, BALANCE OF PAYMENT ASPECTS, POSSIBLE EXIM BAN CREDIT AND THE LIKE ARE ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC MATTERS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE HAVE STRESSED TO CONGRESS THAT COMMERCIAL NATURE OF OUR PROGRAM IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC OFFICER WOULD BE SIMPLER TO INTRODUCE THAN A POLITICAL/ MILITARY OFFICER.

4. BELIEVE THAT IT IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE ONE OFFICER HERE TO MONITOR MILITARY PROGRAMS TO ASSURE CLOSE CONTINUING STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACT WITH THEM. MOREOVER, AS LONG AS EXISTING STAFF MUST ALSO HANDLE ALL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PROGRAMS WE RUN RISK OF NOT BEING ABLE GIVE COMMERCIAL PROGRAM SUFFICIENT ATTENTION. WITH ADDITIONAL MILITARY ECONOMIC OFFICER, BELIEVE WE CAN ASSURE ADEQUATE STATE SUPERVISION AND ATTENTION TO BOTH MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS.

5. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT ADDITIONAL FSO FOR KUWAIT WOULD BE BEST SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM, WE COULD UTILIZE REGIONAL ECONOMIC OFFICER POSPTION FOR THIS WORK IF HIS PRINCIPAL DUTIES IN GULF COULD BE HANDLED BY ADDITIONAL OFFICER THERE. PRIMARY CONCERN REO AT PRESENT IS DOHA WHICH IS WITHOUT SECOND OFFICER. ASSIGNMENT OF ECONOMIC OFFICER TO DOHA COULD ALLOW MODIFYING REO POSITION KUWAIT TO PERFORM ECON/ MIL FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

6. ABOVE DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS AND HE CONCURS. MCCLELLAND

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